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8-29-02

PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 4329.2742

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KEIKO ITO ET AL.

Application No.: 10/086,381

Filed: March 4, 2002

For: METHOD OF PROLIFERATING A
MICROORGANISM CAPABLE OF
DEGRADING A HARD-TO-
DEGRADE ORGANIC
COMPOUND AND METHOD OF
DEGRADING A HARD-TO-
DEGRADE ORGANIC
COMPOUND

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

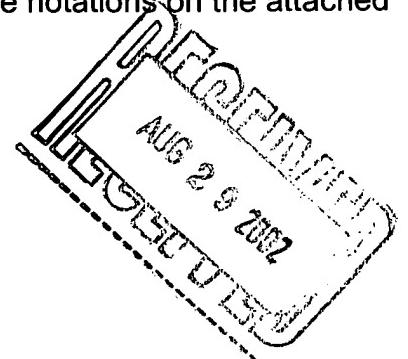
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

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TC 1700



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In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English documents, an English language version of a search report from the European Patent Office in a corresponding application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

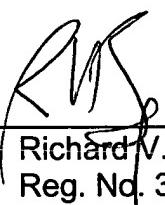
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: 8/25/02

By:


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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	4329.2742	Appln. No.	1744
Applicant	Ito et al.		
Filing Date	March 4, 2002	Group:	1744

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
O I P E AUG 26 2002 U.S. TRADEMARK OFFICE	4,391,887	7/5/83	Baumgarten et al.			RECEIVED AUG 27 2002 1700

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or N
	11-46758	2/23/99	Japan			Abstract
	DE 19647847A1	5/22/97	Germany			No
	7-155792	6/20/95	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	Copy of European Search Report dated June 25, 2002	RECEIVED AUG 27 2002 TC 1700

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner:	Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce